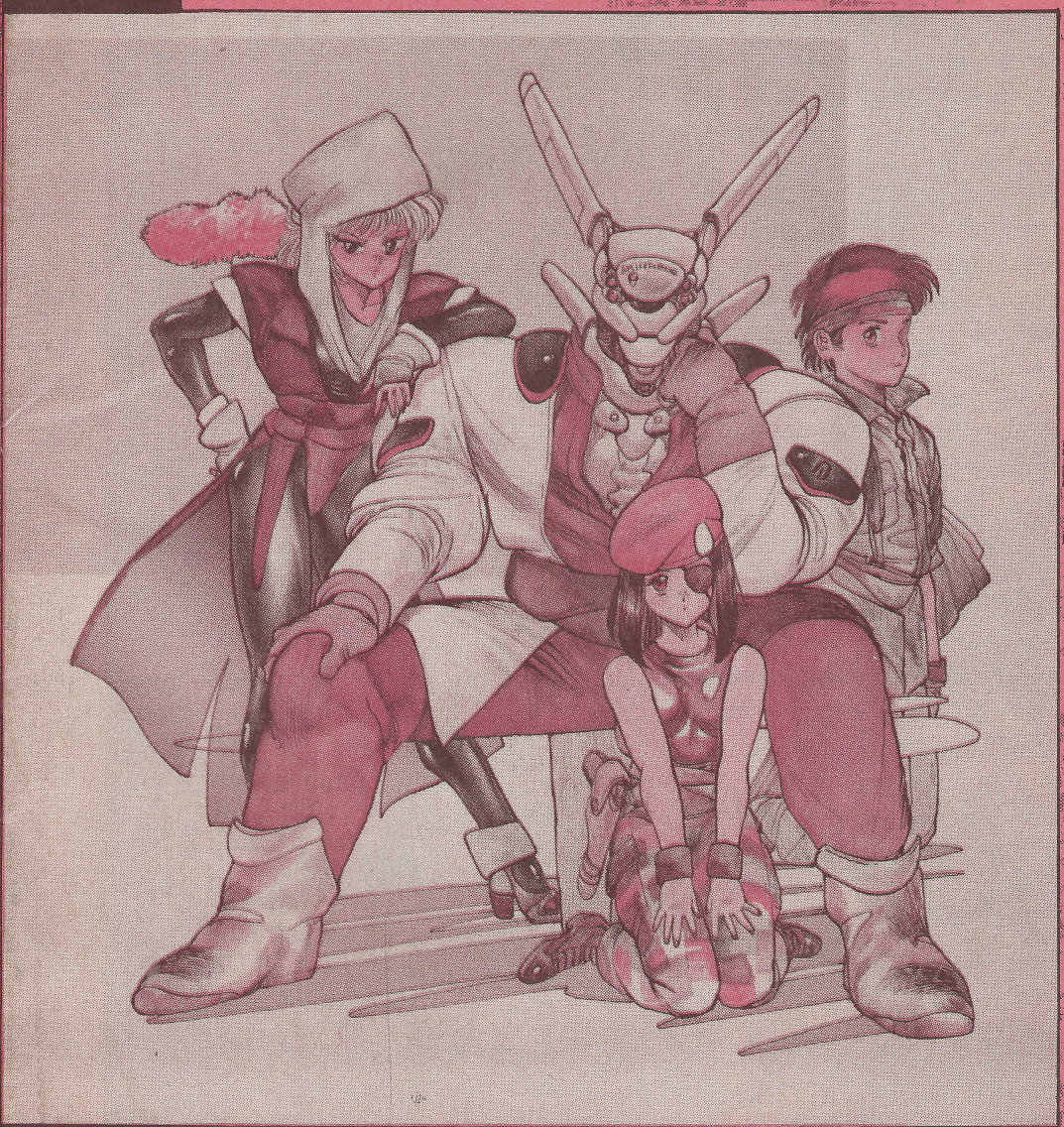
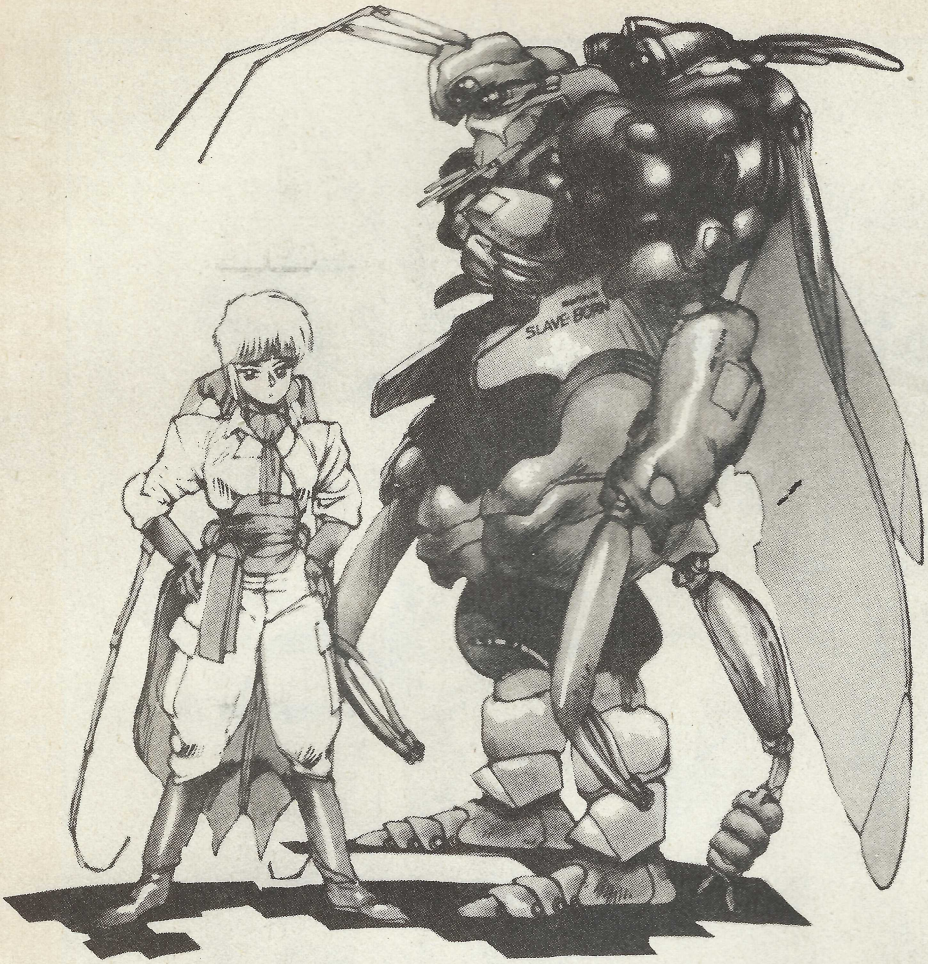
Appleseed



AN INTRODUCTORY GUIDE BOOK TO MASAMUNE SHIROW'S EPIC SCIENCE FICTION COMIC

Appleseed



Story and Art by Masamune Shirow

English Comic Version Produced by
Studio Proteus in Conjunction with Eclipse International

Guide Book Assembled by Animag Inc.

Special Thanks to Toren Smith and David Lewis

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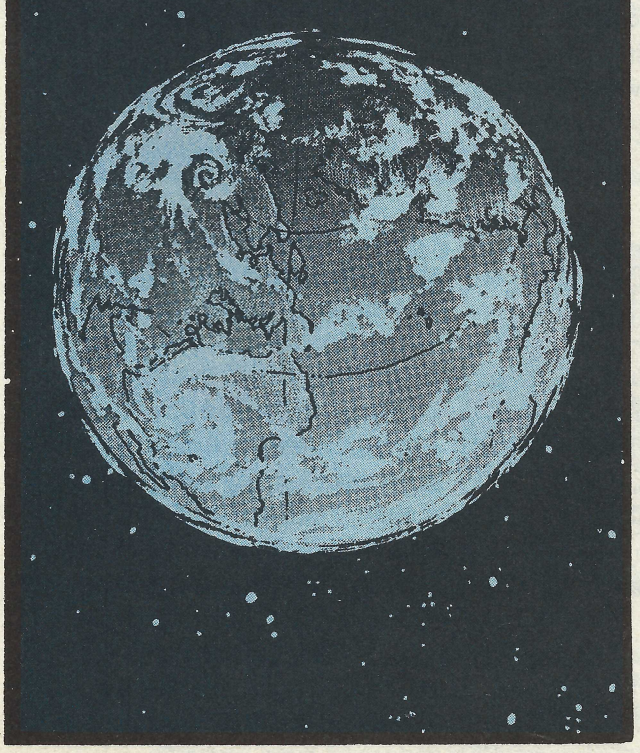
INTRODUCTION

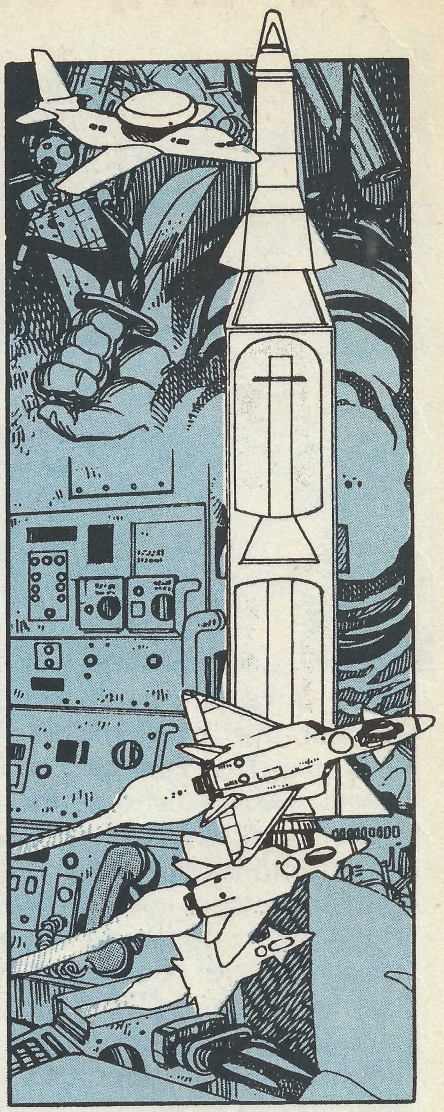
"It was in that year that the flames of war broke out simultaneously in every corner of the globe. To the vast movement of armies, conflict spread, merged, grew, escalating into world war.

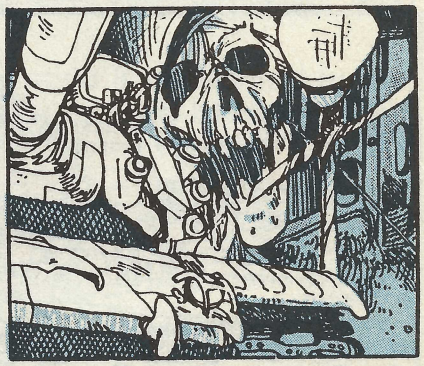
"Knowledge was lost. Confusion reigned. New powers rose to displace the old nations.

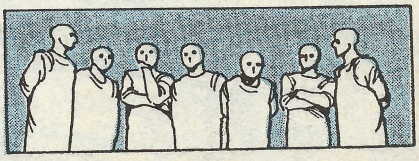
"Nuclear weapons themselves were never used. But even without them, the Earth became a quieter planet."

The war ended, and no one country came out on top. But out of the ruins, one city survived — Olympus, a "utopian city, run by perfect people." Out of Olympus the Central Management Bureau (CMB) also known as "Aegis," unified the world, enforcing the ideals of total disarmament, trade, and economic stability.

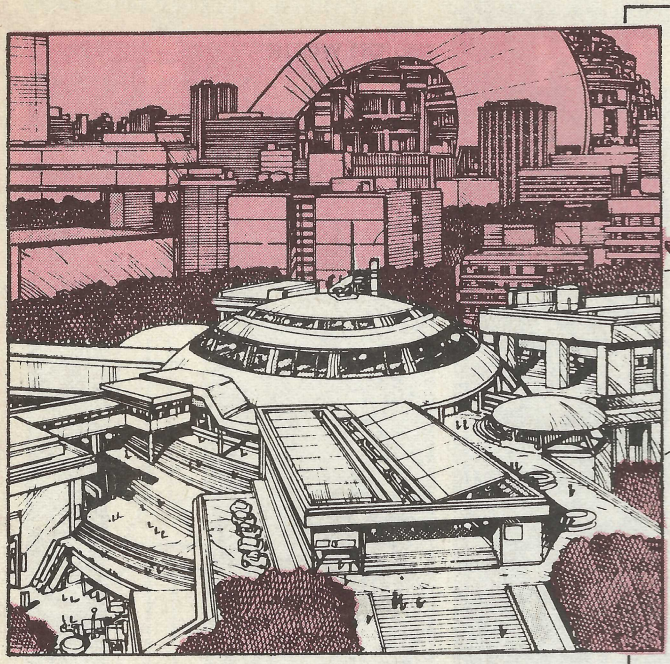


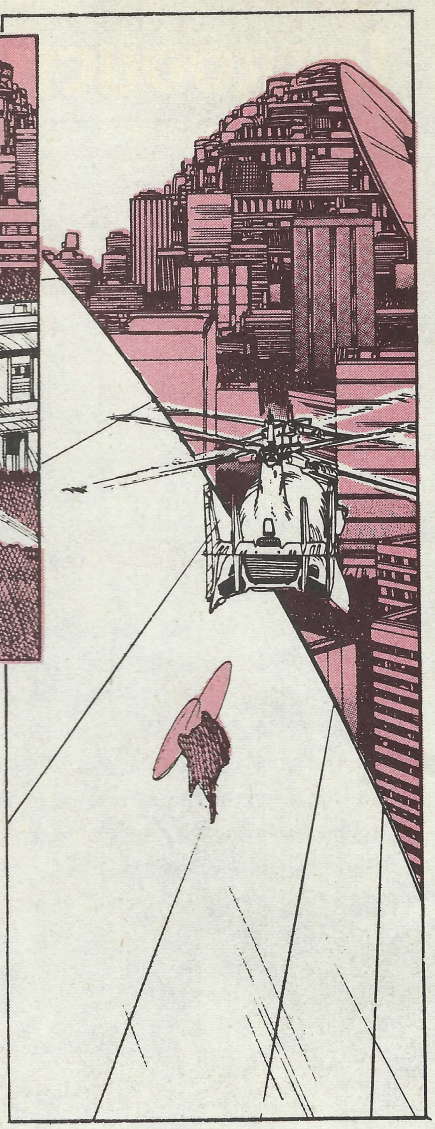




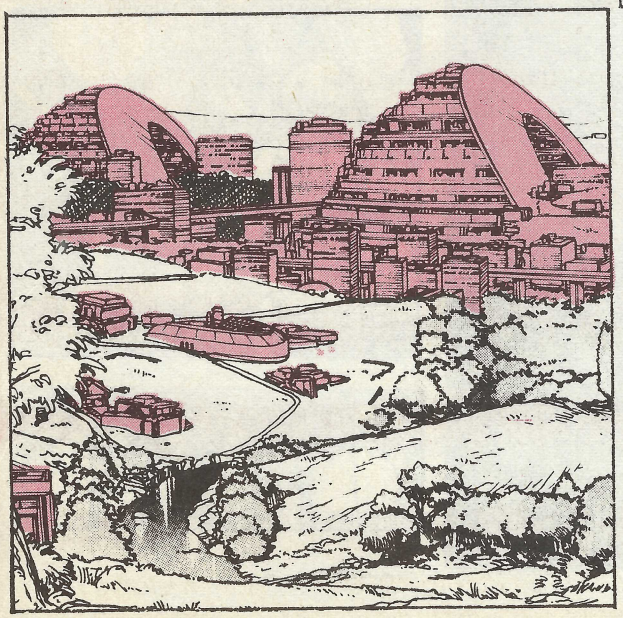


THE CITY, OLYMPUS





An arcology constructed before the war. The City was first seen by people as a crazy Noah's Ark but is now a model city for the rest of the world. It is the most technologically advanced city on Earth. All its factories are underground and the power grids are in orbit. The arcology is designed to minimize the shadows in winter; optical fibers bring natural sunlight to the inside. The maxim the City planners gave the managers was, "Functional simplicity, structural complexity: the best life for all."



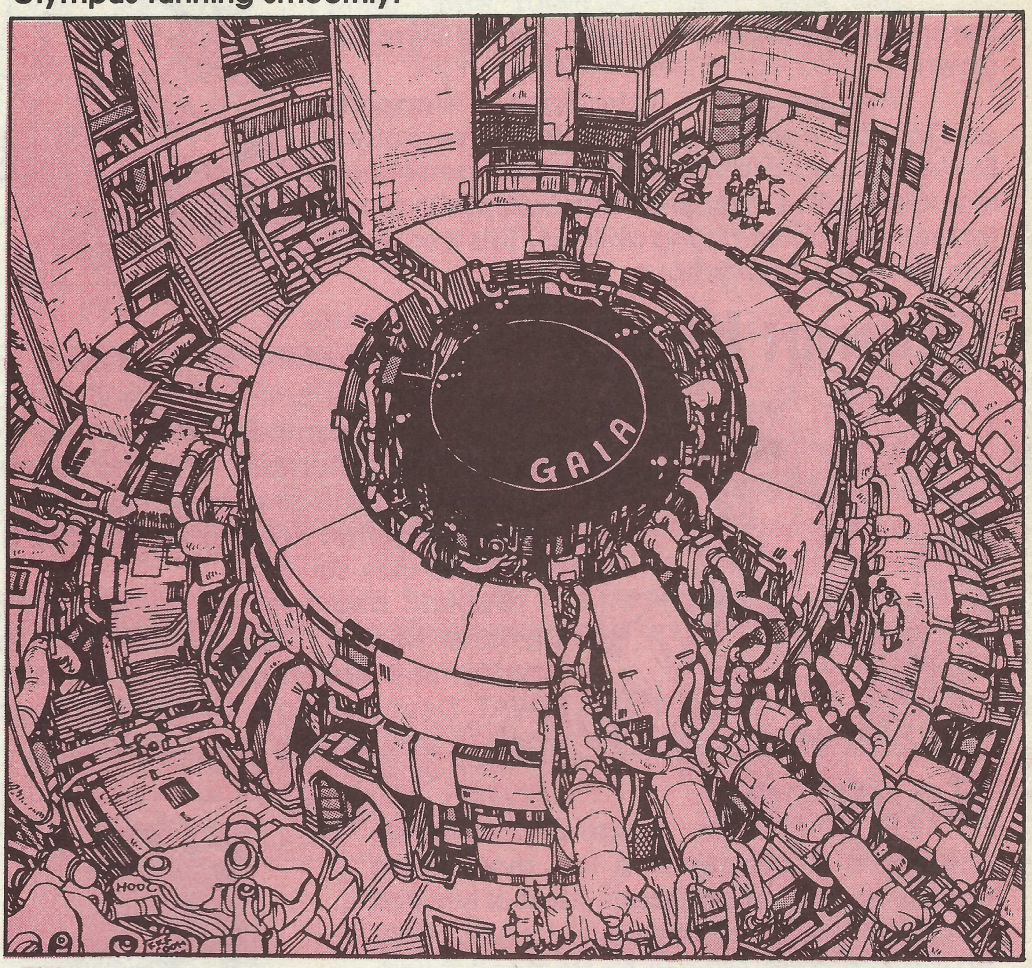
Olympus is an impressive 2,626 feet high. Deunan comments, "The pyramids were nothing compared to this." The City's systems are entirely cybernetic, featuring vehicles that are "smart" and can effect self-repairs.

There are no weapons in the City; a high-tech police force maintains peace.

The basic philosophy of Olympus citizens is, "People first."

GAIA

Due to the immense size and complexity of Olympus, it was necessary to construct a central computer which would monitor an maintain the living environment of the city. The GAIA controls electricity, transportation, water, communications, and all the other essentials that keep Olympus running smoothly.



BADSIDE

Three-fourths of the world is considered to be Badside. It is a lawless wasteland. The area is sparcely inhabitated by solos, terrorists, bandits and "some guys still playing wartime."

CLONES AND BIOROIDS

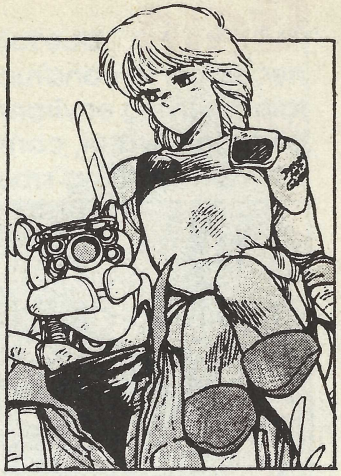
Clones are humans artificially created from a genetic pattern taken from genetic donors.

Bioroids are clones with genetic material from multiple mother sources, called hybrids. They go through special processing, including personality and emotional responses conditioned by training, education, and the child-rearing environment. They can be considered the most "compact, complex and sophisticated robots imaginable."

Eighty percent of the population of Olympus are clones containing macromolecular processed components.

Clones and bioroids both require periodic longevity processing (a recharging of their biological systems).

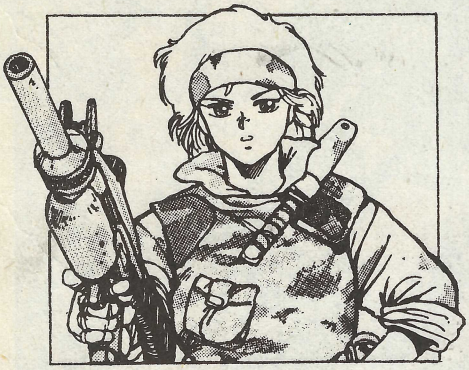
THE CHARACTERS



While the majority of the citizens support the reorganization plans of the Aegis, there are those who wish to see those plans fail. Some of them plot from within Olympus itself, using terrorism and political methods to bring Olympus down.

Thus the ESWAT (Extra Special Weapons and Tactics) was formed to combat these groups. ESWAT is composed of highly skilled personnel, including "solos" recruited from outside Olympus for their valuable fighting abilities. This is how our heroes come to Olympus.

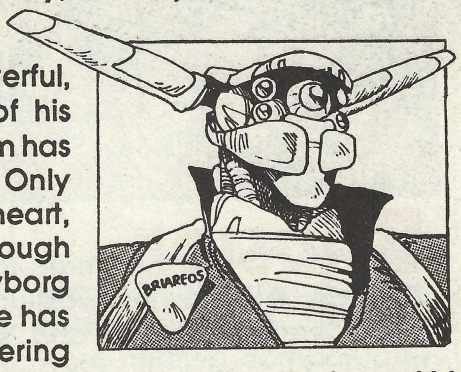
DEUNAN KNUTE



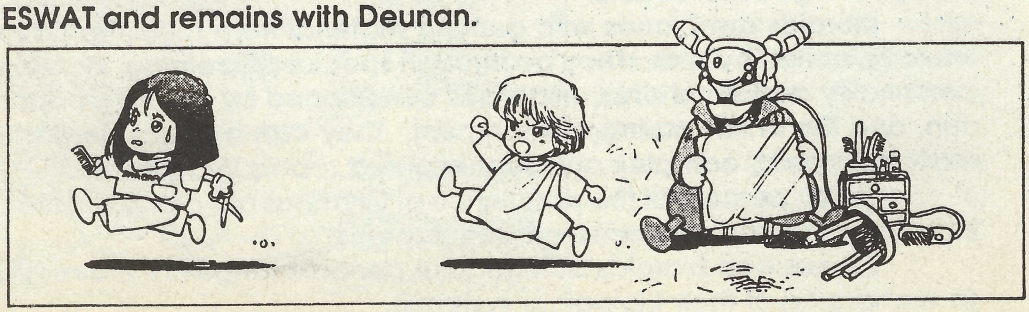
The heroine of the story. Before the war, she and her partner Briareos worked as SWAT team members. The only life she knows is one of combat. She and Briareos survive during and after the war as partners, teaming together not only for combat but for day-to-day survival.

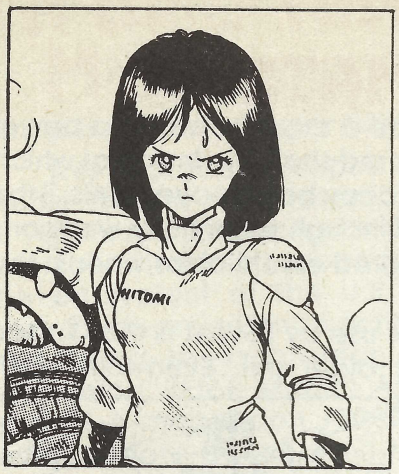
Deunan and Briareos are brought to Olympus to live. Once there, the only employment option open to them is the ESWAT. Deunan enjoys life in Olympus and wants to stay, so she joins ESWAT.

BRIAREOS

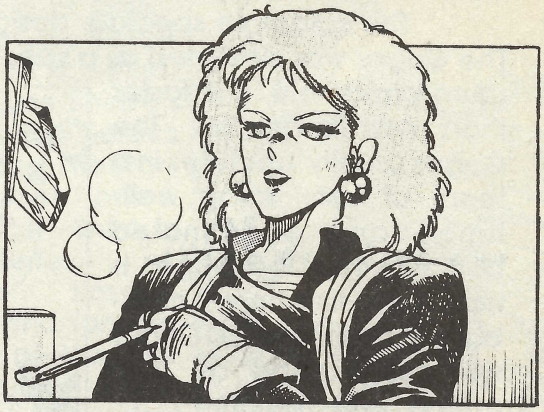


Large and powerful, Briareos is a cyborg who lost most of his natural body in an accident. Most of him has been replaced by mechanical parts. Only his major organs, such as his stomach, heart, etc., are still intact. He likes Deunan, though he is not crazy about her cooking. His cyborg parts amplify his hearing and vision. He has antenna-mounted cameras for peering around corners. His cyborg legs can propel him at high speeds, and his total body strength and durability is greatly increased. He has anti-personnel guns in his forearm, and a variety of other gadgets. Briareos does not like living in the City and suspects something is amiss, but he joins ESWAT and remains with Deunan.



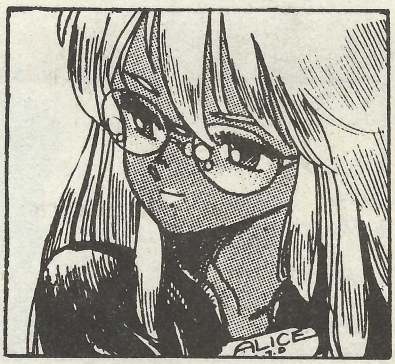


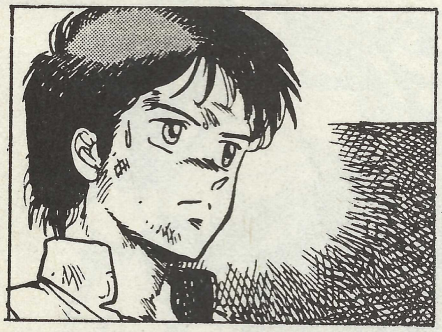
HITOMI She works for the City's Council. On the Council's instructions, Hitomi brings solos to Olympus to live. She first meets Deunan and Briareos during such a mission. She also uses the top floor of her home as a dormitory for new citizens until they are established in the City.



ATHENA A government official working for Aegis, in charge of the reconstruction program for the City. Athena is also in charge of consulting, deployment, law enforcement, international negotiations and mediations, establishing borders and territorial waters, cleaning up war damage, etc. She is suspicious of the Council's actions and sometimes uses Aegis funds for her own private investigations. Athena is strongly against selling armaments on the open market.

CHIFFON A solo like Deunan and Briareos, brought by Hitomi from the Badside several months ago. Previously she lived in Oahu.





YOSHI Hitomi's boyfriend. He works as a mechanic on landmate suits.

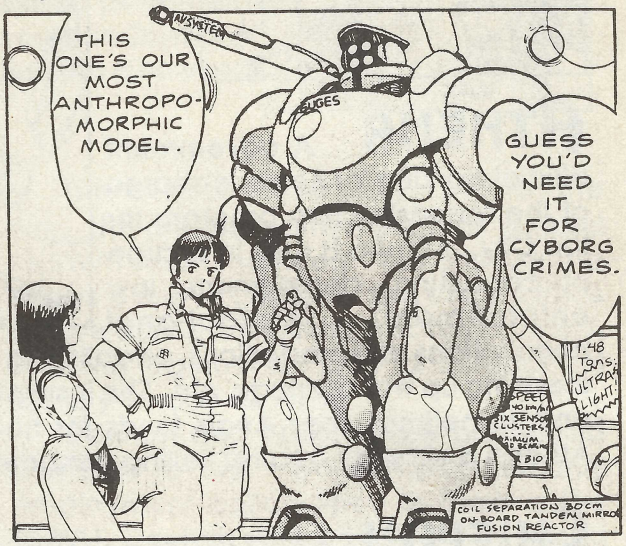
COUNCIL The Council is a large body of bioroid citizens who have been genetically altered for increased intelligence. They act as a think tank, advising Aegis in planning the course of the City's progress.

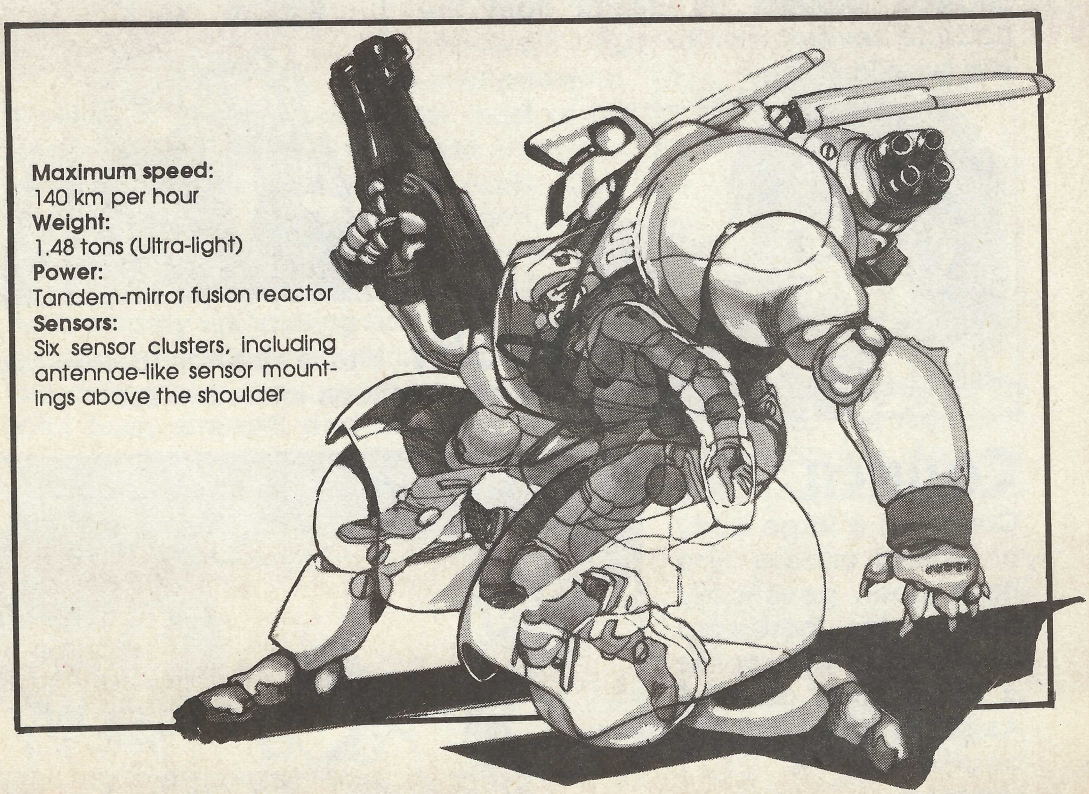
THE GUGES LANDMATE

A landmate can be considered to be a cross between a power armor suit and an exoskeleton. It is an armored shell, the inside of which is completely covered with receptors which copy body movements; if the body moves, the suit moves. Landmates, although essentially weapons are available to the public and are considered essential for work in the Outlands, or on the police force.

The landmate specially designed for use by ESWAT is the Guges. The Guges was designed as a special light raider unit. Even with maximum armament, it is faster than most landmates. The Guges usually operates in a team of suits, using well-timed and coordinated battle-plans. The Guges is not a front-line heavy combat suit, and thus most Guges will not expend all their ammo on a mission.

Deunan purchases a Guges shortly after arriving in Olympus. She later modifies her Guges to better suit her needs.

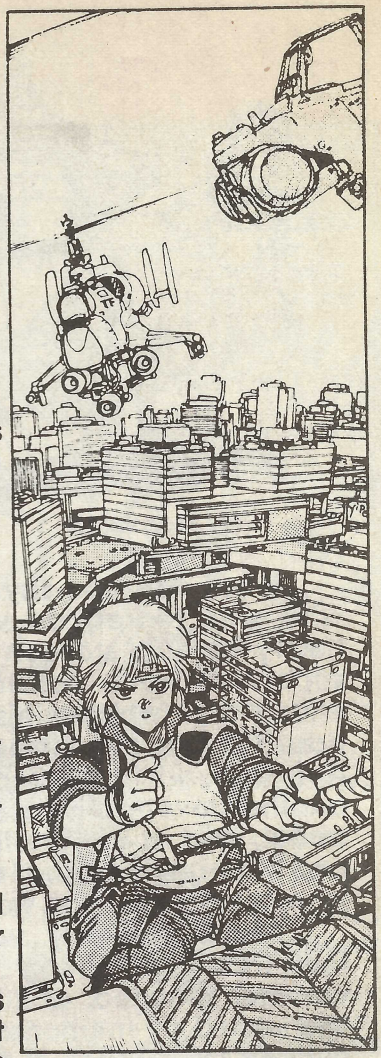




Maximum speed:
140 km per hour
Weight:
1.48 tons (Ultra-light)
Power:
Tandem-mirror fusion reactor
Sensors:
Six sensor clusters, including antennae-like sensor mountings above the shoulder

A Brief History Of Masamune Shirow

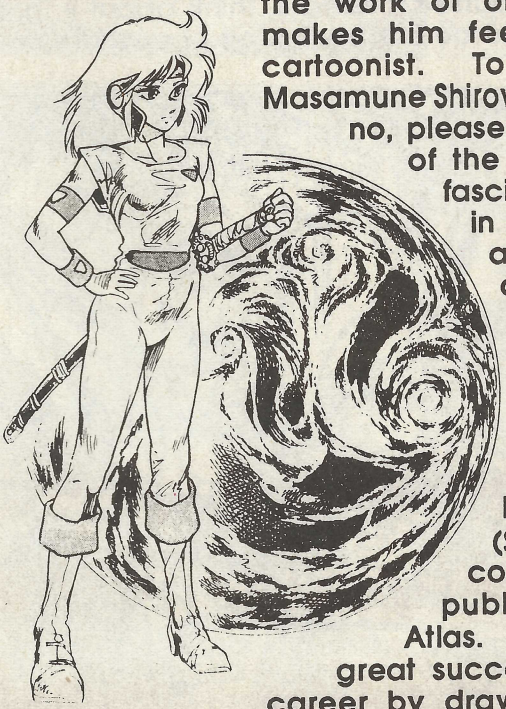
Adapted from a longer history by David Lewis



This October, Eclipse International and Studio Proteus will present the first installment of *Appleseed*, a science fiction epic which was the winner of Japan's Seiun-sho award, the equivalent of the U.S. Hugo award, for best Japanese science fiction comic of 1985. According to its creator, Masamune Shirow (*Dominion*, *Black Magic*) *Appleseed* is a kind of post-Armageddon *Hill Street Blues* (Shirow's favorite show, by the way) in which the heroes -- Deunan Knute and her cyborg-mentor, Briaréos -- struggle to emerge intact from a minefield of post-war power politics. Shiro is the original artist and writer of the series.

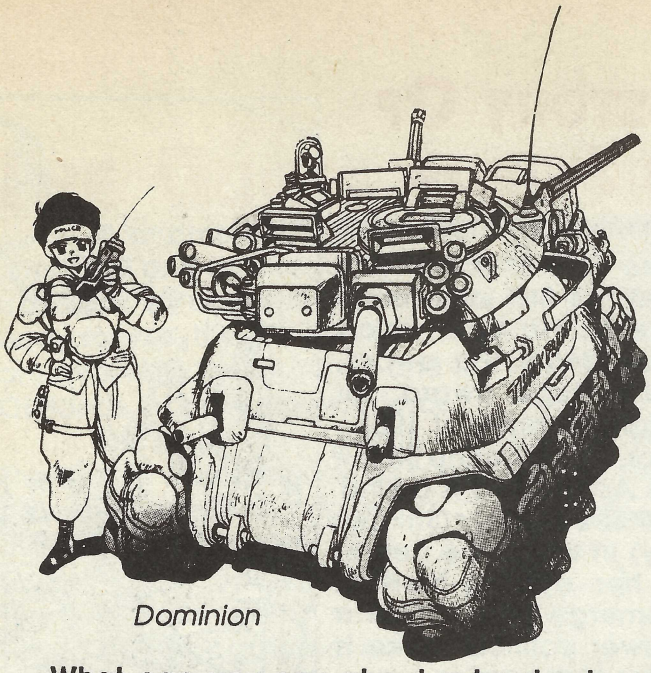
When Seishinsha, a small, quality-conscious science fiction and fantasy publisher, printed an initial run of the first volume of *Appleseed* in February, 1985, publisher Harumichi Aoki placed a modest order with his printer for 5,000 copies. At last count, more than 100,000 copies were in print of volume one and at least as many for each of volumes two and three, and volume four is on the way. The *Appleseed* original animation video (OAV) was released this year and was well-received.

Shirow confesses to feeling that his art is not very good at all, and says that looking at the work of other artists makes him feel "ashamed" to call himself a cartoonist. To the rest of the manga world, Masamune Shirow (and yes, that's a pen name and no, please don't ask for his real name) is one of the best artists in the business. He's fascinated with science, and his interest in hardware -- whether it's how to best attach synthetic muscles in combat androids or studying the way an insect's legs move -- is reflected in his great mecha designs.



Black Magic

He was born in Kobe (near Osaka in central Japan) on November 23, 1961, and was graduated from Osaka University of Fine Arts, department of Oil Painting. (Shirow was only 21 when his first comic, *Black Magic*, was originally published by the manga fan group Atlas. Since then, it's been reprinted with great success by Seishinsha.) He began his career by drawing comics as a third-grader in elementary school. He is unlike other manga artists

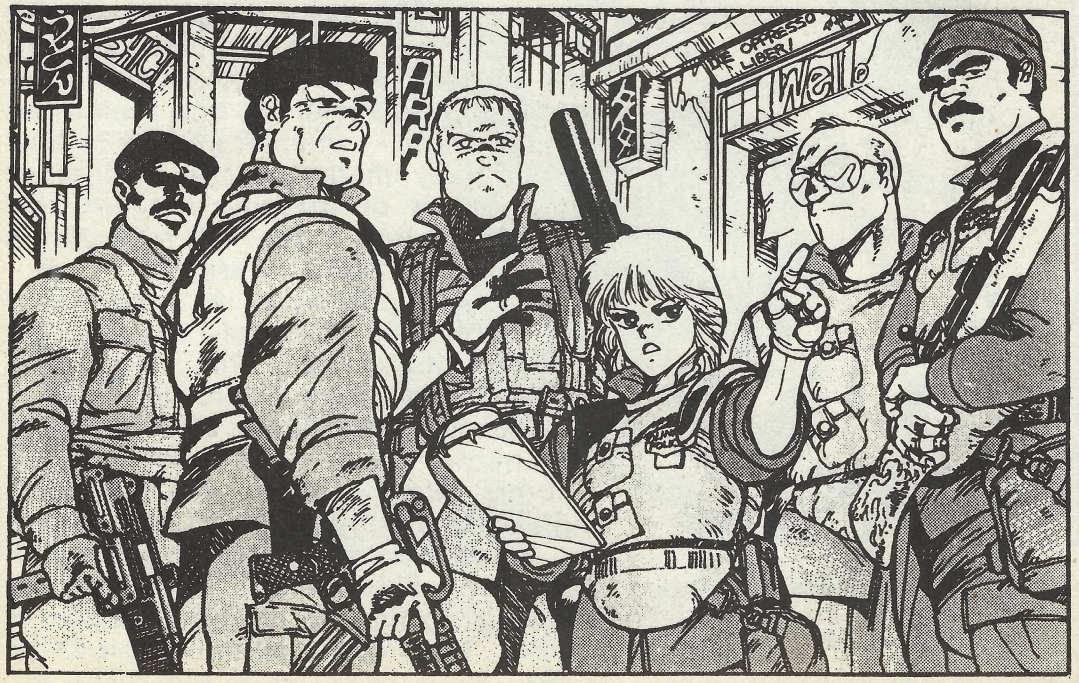


Dominion

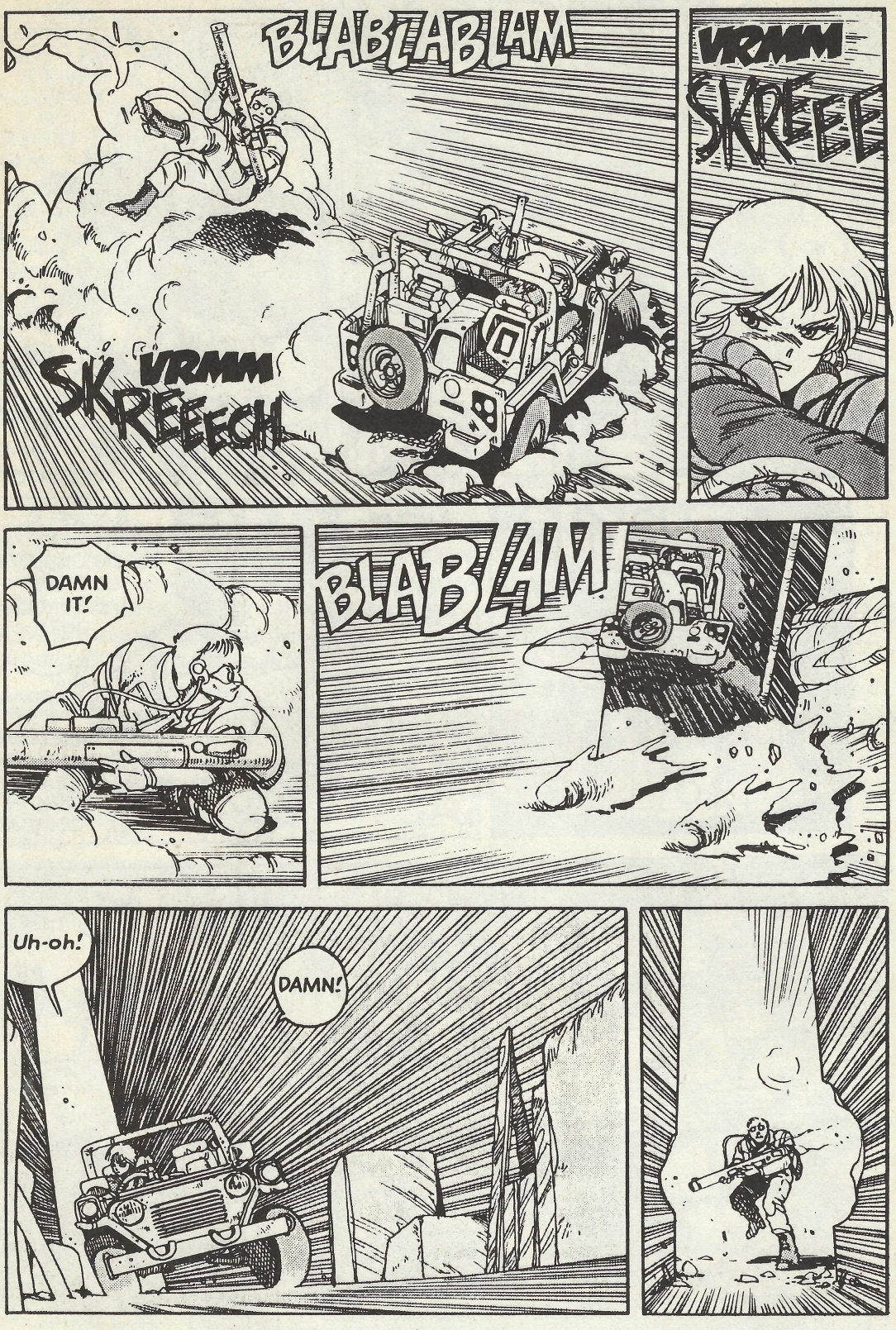
in that he does not admit to being heavily influenced by the now-standard *Shonen Jump* but by *Ribon* instead, a popular girl's manga with a closet audience of male readers for its innovative story line, often radical page layouts and excellent artwork at a time when boy's rags were trundling out the umpteenth variation on the high-school-sports-success-story.

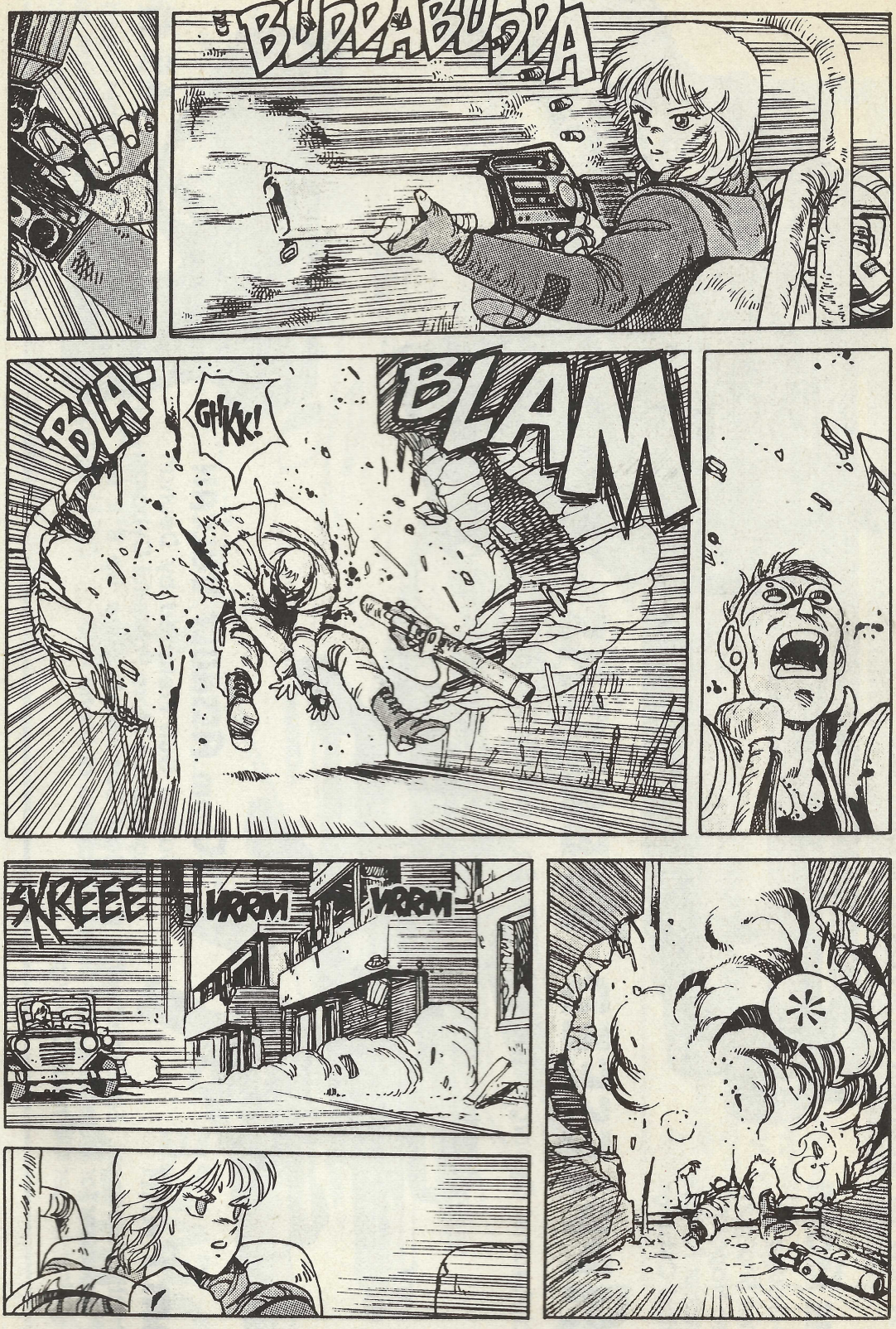
What can you say about a hard-science intellectual oil painter, who was reared on women's comics, and specializes in mecha heavy-combat stories? A man who -- in a country where most manga superstars have assistants doing their backgrounds, inking, sound effects and (whisper this quietly) a lot of the actual pencilling as well -- does virtually everything himself? Who, even now, says he isn't a pro. And who, while delivering straight action/adventure on one level, at another level delivers real, down-to-earth characters you can care about, and at yet another, uses them to carry on with a challenging and intensely personal exploration of what it means to be human in an increasingly inhuman world.

And by the way...what does *Appleseed* mean? Masamune Shirow feels that is something best answered by reading the entire series (ten volumes planned, at 200+ pages each). Publisher Aoki suggests the title should stir memories of Johnny Appleseed, while other critics have evoked the Garden of Eden. For yourself? Read it, think about it, and draw your own conclusions. It could be the beginning of a whole new world.



BOM
VRR
GNGN
GAHH!
BRRRRRT
THEY BLEW THE HATCH!
GODDAMN IT! YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO COVER HIM!
! PINGPING
HEY! IT WON'T FIRE!
BARREL'S OVERHEATED! THE SUPERCONDUCTIVE COOLING SYSTEM IS OUT!
GODDAMN IT! I KNEW THAT FANCY CRAP WOULD NEVER WORK IN COMBAT!
SON OF A BITCH!
!

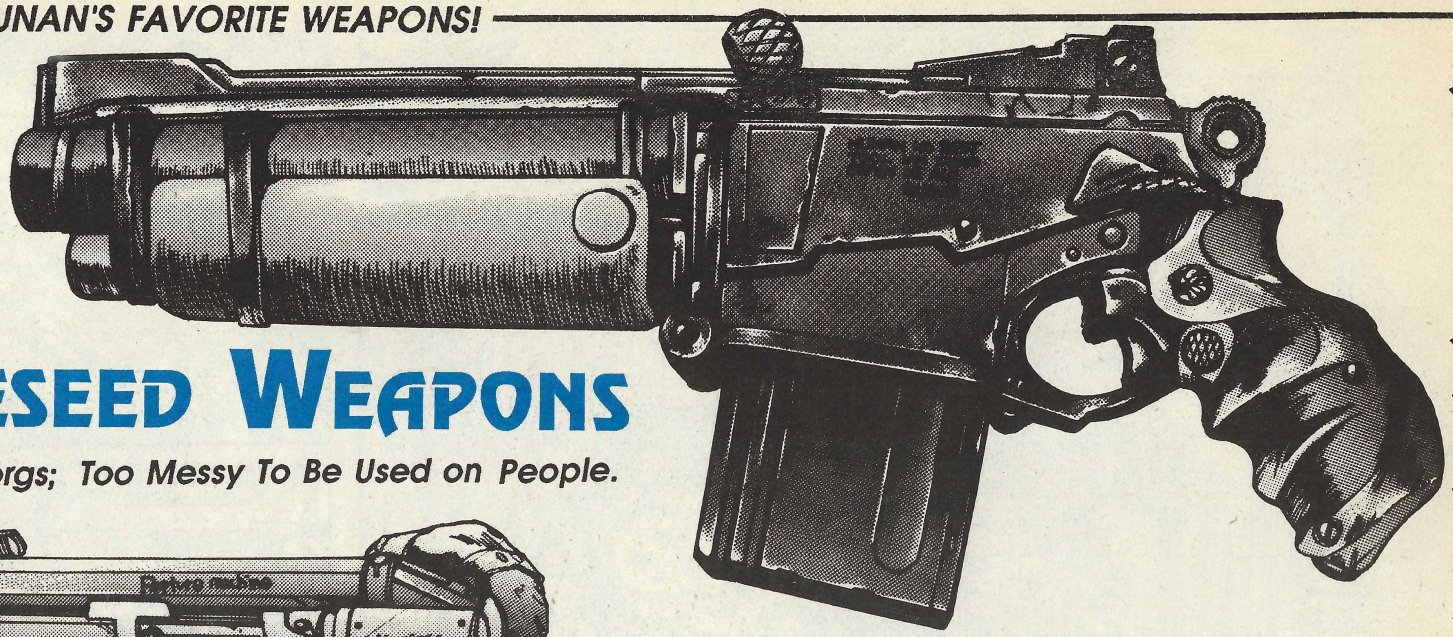

BLABLABLAM
VRMM
SKREEEEE
VRMM
SKREEECH
DAMN IT!
BLABLAM!
Uh-oh!
DAMN!


BUDDABUDDA
BLA-
GHKK!
BLAM
SKREEE
VRRM
VRRM
*

A FEW OF DEUNAN'S FAVORITE WEAPONS!

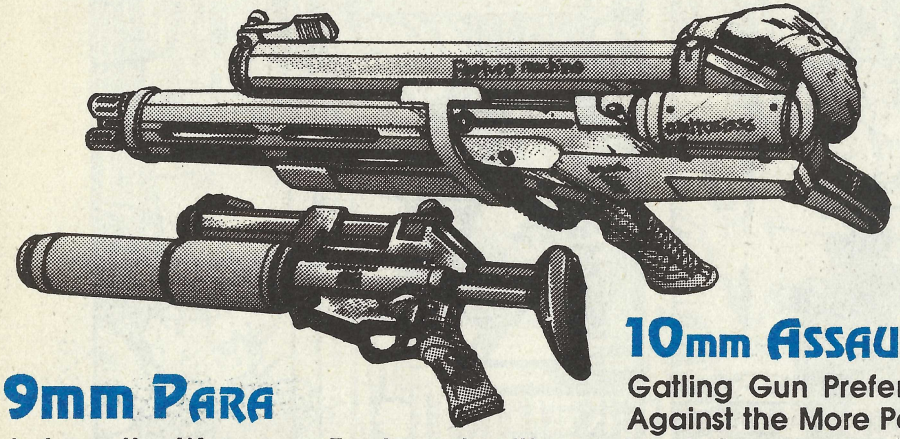
The Gong

Ten-Gauge
6-Shot Shotgun
Micro Napalm
Launcher For Use
Against Cyborgs.



Appleseed Weapons

Used Against Cyborgs; Too Messy To Be Used on People.

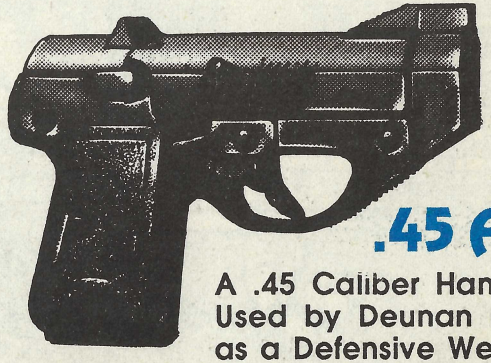


9mm Para

Automatic Weapon, Equipped with a Large Supressor for Quiet Fire. Not Effective Against Larger Combat Cyborgs.

10mm Assault Vulcan

Gatling Gun Preferred by Deunan Against the More Powerful Cyborgs. Most Opponents Give Up if it is Pointed at Them!



.45 ACP

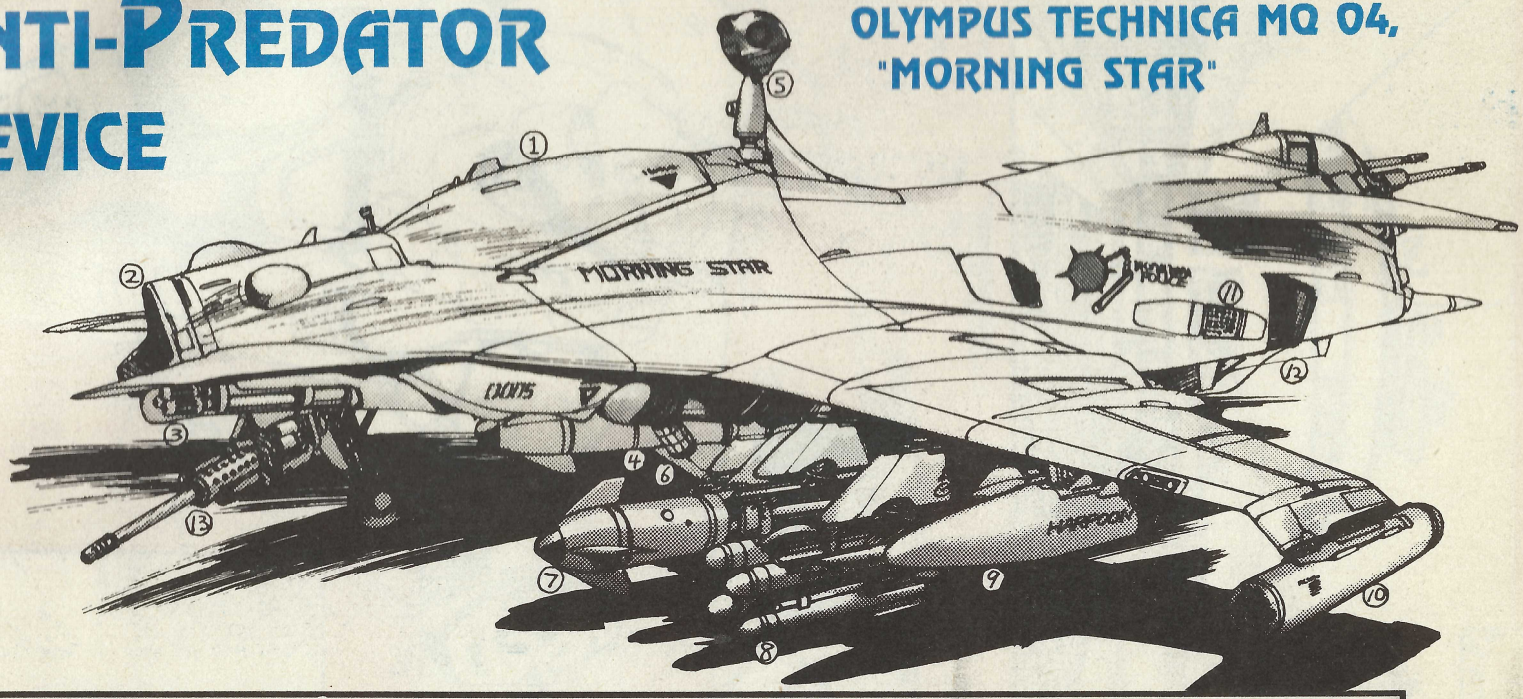
A .45 Caliber Hand Gun Used by Deunan mainly as a Defensive Weapon.

Appleseed Art By Masamune Shirow

New Tank Buster of the Olympus Police

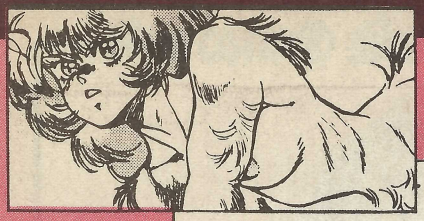
Anti-Predator Device

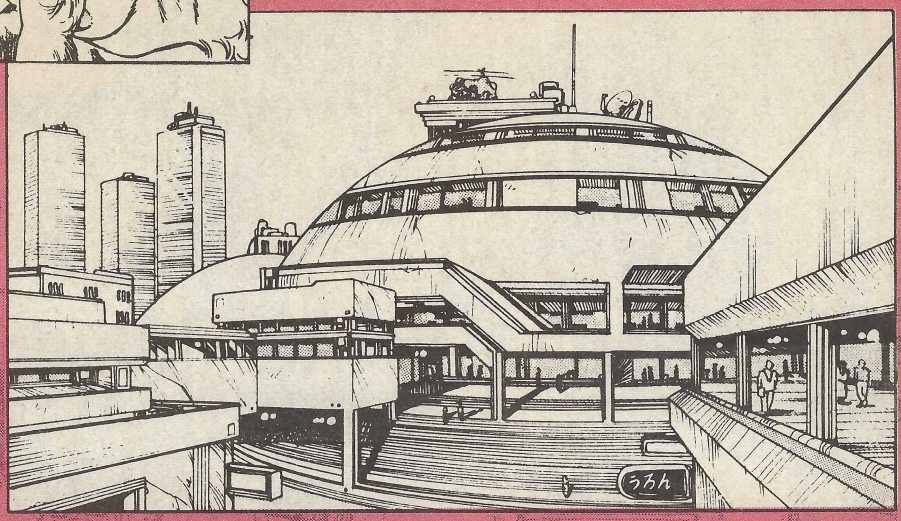
Olympus Technica MQ 04, "Morning Star"

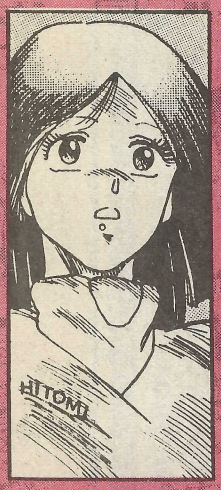


1. Canopy
2. Ram Jet Intake
3. Three-Barrel Gatling Weapon x2
4. VTOL Verniers
5. Mast-Mount Sight
6. Jammer (ECM)
7. Anti-Ship Missile "Penguin"
8. Anti-Tank Missile "Work's Hell"
9. Anti-Ship Missile "Mori the Whale"
10. 19-Tube Rocket Launcher "Hokuto No Ken"
11. Sun Burst Dispenser
12. Exhaust Nozzle
13. Auto-Chain Gun 30 mm

Appleseed Art By Masamune Shirow






HITOMI